

THE MIDDLETOWN STUDIES COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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Introduction

- Overview of Archives and Special Collections
- Local History Collections
- Records of Middletown Studies
- Film Clips from Middletown documentary series
- Digital Collections



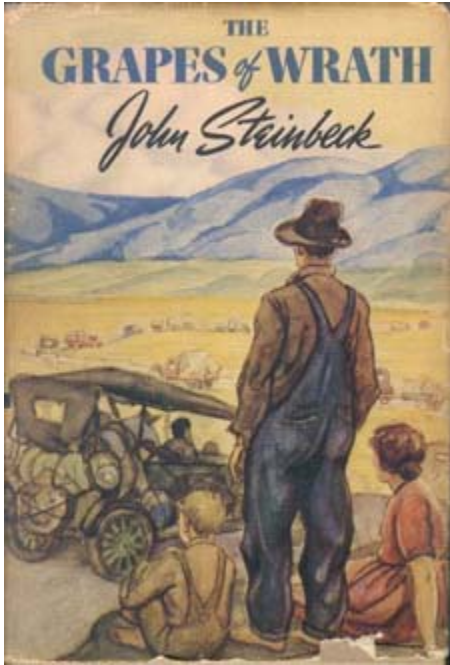
Overview of Archives & Special Collections

- Where are we located?
- What hours are we open?
- What to expect when you visit Archives & Special Collections?
- Website: <http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/archives>



Conducting Research

- How do you find resources in Archives and Special Collections?
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 - Collection Guides
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Collection Areas: University Archives



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Collection Areas: Stoeckel Archives of Local History



<http://www.bsu.edu/library/collections/archives/stoeckel/>



Collection Areas: Stoeckel Archives of Local History

- ❑ Established in 1979.
- ❑ Named in honor of Althea Stoeckel, BSU Professor of History.
- ❑ Contains a wealth of materials concerning Muncie, Delaware County and East Central Indiana.
- ❑ Includes records of business and industry; churches; clubs and organizations; education; government; social and political; oral histories and photographs.

Collection Areas: Middletown Studies Collections



Middletown Studies Collection

□ Origin of Middletown

▣ Robert S. Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd

- Middletown (1929)

- Middletown in Transition (1937)

- ▣ "...the aim of the field of investigation recorded in the following pages was to study the interwoven trends that are the life of a small American city."

- ▣ "Getting Living," "Making a Home," "Training the Young," "Using Leisure," "Engaging in Religious Practice," and "Engaging in Community Activities."

Middletown Studies Collection



- Preserve and make available the records of the Center for Middletown Studies in the University Archives.

These document the activities of the Center and the Middletown research that is promotes

- Collect, preserve, and make available the research of Muncie as Middletown, one of the most studied cities in the country.

Middletown Studies Collection



- ❑ Copies of the original books published by Helen Lynd.
- ❑ Photographs by Margaret Bourke-White
- ❑ Middletown Articles
- ❑ Middletown III Surveys
- ❑ Middletown Film Series
- ❑ Access to online resources

Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs

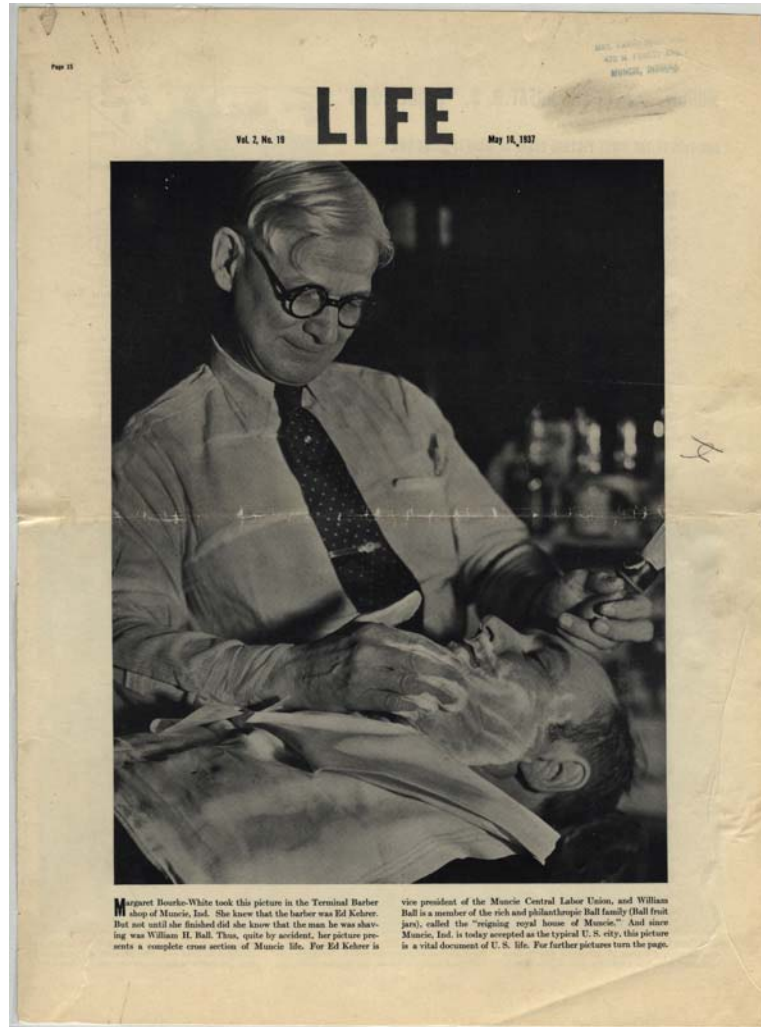


Margaret Bourke-White

Time Magazine, May 10, 1937



Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs



Margaret Bourke-White took this picture in the Terminal Barber shop of Muncie, Ind. She knew that the barber was Ed Kcheer. But not until she finished did she know that the man he was shaving was William H. Ball. Thus, quite by accident, her picture presents a complete cross section of Muncie life. For Ed Kcheer is

vice president of the Muncie Central Labor Union, and William Ball is a member of the rich and philanthropic Ball family (Ball fruit jars), called the "reigning royal house of Muncie." And since Muncie, Ind. is today accepted as the typical U. S. city, this picture is a vital document of U. S. life. For further pictures turn the page.

Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs

MUNCIE, IND. IS THE GREAT U. S. "MIDDLETOWN"

AND THIS IS THE FIRST PICTURE ESSAY OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Photographs for LIFE by Margaret Bourke-White

Muncie, Ind. is the most interesting small town in the U. S. For 12 years it has been surveyed, studied and talked about more than any other city its size in the world. Sociologists use it as a specimen, advertisers as a test tube. It owes this distinction to Robert and Helen Lynd, two New York sociologists who in 1941-43 lived there 18 months, wrote a book called *Middletown*—in reality, Muncie, Ind.—the first full length portrait of a twentieth-century city. *Middletown* made Americans gasp with wonder, recognition and surprise. For the first time they saw clearly how U. S. citizens live, work, play, think and talk. Some Muncie, Ind. people did not like the picture. But the more honest ones admitted it was true.

Ten years later Dr. Lynd returned to see what changes loomed and depression had made in his typical U. S. town. The new book, *Middletown in Transition*, published April 8 by Harcourt, Brace (85), is even more revealing, more dramatic than the first. Of all U. S. literature it may well survive as the truest, sharpest picture of this age. For *Middletown in Transition* is not only Muncie, Ind. It is every small U. S. city from Maine to California.

In April, LIFE sent Margaret Bourke-White to Muncie to make a photographic essay of the "Middletown" about which the Lynds wrote their great sociological essay. She returned with a yard-high stack of pictures. LIFE here presents 11 pages of them in the belief that they are an important American document. They show Middletown's streets and houses. They show Middletown's people at home, at work, at play. They show typical Middletown faces: a teacher, a worker, a waitress, a preacher, a grocer, an editor, a manufacturer, a financier. They show unemployed and members of the Ball family who—like most great



American business men—made their money in a small local industry, then expanded out into national investments. Today Ball transactions make front page headlines (see p. 85). Here, set down for all time, you may look at the average 1937 American as he really is.

On these two pages you see the top surface of "Middletown." Muncie, like many cities on the Mississippi plain, is built north and south of the railroad tracks and west of a river (see map). The tracks divide the city roughly into business-class and working-class halves. Three out of every ten Middletowners live in the more elegant northside homes, seven in the more crowded southside lots near glass and auto factories. In the center is the business district with its small shops, its chain stores, its big Ball department store. As in most U. S. towns, its landmark is Court House Square (below), with its ancient granite stone structure. Like every other U. S. town, Muncie has its fine show boulevard, skirting the river (top right). As in every other, great areas are covered with the wooden homes of its working and middle class (lower right), always one or two stories high, seldom without a garage. To see what Middletown homes look like inside, turn the page.



COURT HOUSE SQUARE in Muncie, as in most Middletowns, was once the center of business life. There is a Main St. (lower right corner) on one side, a Walnut St. (right angles to Main) on

another. Every fine Saturday farmers gather here to buy food, seed, overalls and implements. Inside the cavernous old Court House and the new City Hall two blocks away

girded the wheels of a political setup described thus by Middletowners in the Lynd book: "The fellow who can promise the most gets elected, and there have been plenty of promises."

Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs



Show place of Muncie in Muncieville Blvd., where live only members of the Ball family. The Balls came from an Ohio farm, started a glass business with \$7,000, spread out into

the largest fruit jar plant in the world. Today they not only own glass works, but control banks, newspapers and publishing as well. A typical Lynd Middletowner says of them:

"(They) are keen, rich, healthy, clean Christian people. They may pay too little to their employees, they may control banking, but they contribute generously and do a lot for the town."



Single-family houses—"the characteristic midland house set in its own yard"—provide shelter for 90% of Muncie's families. Over 90% are made of wood. Some 47% have no running

water or only cold water in the house, 90% no bathtub, 19% no indoor toilet, 55% only stove heat. The houses above are better than average. While most have run down in recent

years, a new Middletown-in-transition landmark is the cluster of brick and wood Colonial houses in two subdivisions where 18 years ago there were only flat Indiana cornfields.

Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs



At the bottom of Muncie's social strata live Scott and Linahelle Brandenberg. Scott is the second husband of Linahelle, who hails from Flat, Ky. Their home, lined with paper cups, is a one-room elephant shack in "Shedtown." In a homemade brooder, consisting of a wooden tray, an oil lamp and a paper box, they are raising chickens "for sale," not for sale. Mrs. Brandenberg talks with the Kentucky hill-billy drawl heard in many midwest industrial towns from southerners migrated north to work in the great auto plants.



At the top of Muncie life is the Ball family. Here is the West End home of William H. Ball. Son of one of four hardy brothers who founded Muncie's dominant glassworks, he typifies, for Dr. Lynd, a significant new development. This is "the emergence of an upper class to whom certain leisure activities have value, not in relation to work, but quite independently as a symbol of status." The first pink-coated fox hunt ever to astonish an Indiana landscape was held on William Ball's Orchard Lawn Saddle Horse Farm in April (see page).

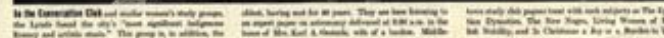
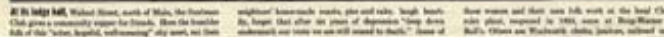
Middletown Studies Collection: Margaret Bourke-White Photographs



Symbol of many Ball philanthropies is Ball State Teachers College. This Bourke-White air view shows only a part of its \$4,000,000 plant. The college's experimental school (lower right) and the Ball Memorial Hospital (center) will probably soon receive more Ball millions. For early in April Philanthropist George A. Ball turned over the \$5,000 miles of Van Sweringen railroads he bought for \$5,000,000 in 1933 to a new foundation. On April 29 he sold them, in the name of the foundation, to Wall Street bankers (see p. 85) for \$4,575,000.



FOR ACROSS DOWN from the college are homes like these. Depression years have made them shabby, but the people in them, like all Middletown, have retained fundamental change. New streets may strike out through the cornfields, new houses arise, new faces emerge. But year in and year out, these nearest midland folk still steer their customary middle course, still cling to their old American dream. Middletown, say the Lynds, may relocate this course slightly to the left, but the new path will become the "American way."



Spide's Spelling
Book
The Old

Middletown Studies Collection: Articles Collection

- We collect any articles, working papers, dissertations, theses, and other writings that cite the Middletown books and more recent research.

We have copies of these articles in Archives & Special Collections and a database that organizes them by author, title, and subject.

Middletown Studies Collection:

Middletown III

- The Middletown III Project (1970s) was the first major study to replicate the Lynd studies. They used the same categories as the Lynd study with the addition of Black Middletown.
- We have the original surveys done in this project, survey notes, working papers, computer tapes, and other materials that resulted from the project.
- Middletown Families, 1982
- All the Faithful People, 1983

Middletown Studies Collection:

Middletown III

CS 5-17-76 (2) 04319 ✓

GETTING A LIVING IN MIDDLETOWN

This questionnaire is designed to determine how men in Middletown go about the task of "getting a living." It is divided into three sections. Section I asks for social background information which is used in analyzing the results. For example, the feelings and experiences of married men can be compared to those of single men, or the answers of blue-collar workers can be contrasted to white-collar workers. Section II concerns the work situation and asks how men feel about their job. Section III is for those men who are married and deals with how their job and their wife's job, if she works, effects their family life. Would you please fill out Sections I and II and Section III if you are married.

Most questions can be answered by circling or checking one answer, so please don't mark more than one answer unless the instructions ask for more than one. If you wish to explain an answer or offer a comment, use the margin or attach an additional sheet. Remember that your answers are confidential and will be used only as data in the research report.

Thank you.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CENTER FOR PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, OCCUPATIONAL PLANS, FAMILY BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES OF MENCIE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR

Dear Student:

This survey is an attempt to get a better picture of school experiences, family relationships, and occupational plans of today's students. We are also trying to understand how these experiences and student attitudes have changed over the years. By carefully filling out this questionnaire you will help us to gain a better understanding of how these issues look from where you stand. This information will be of value in helping educators, social scientists, and people interested in the community to understand the changing needs and problems which we face. For this reason we are anxious to have you answer the questions on this form as completely and honestly as possible.

Please follow these directions:

1. Read each item carefully. Answer to the best of your knowledge.
2. Be sure to answer each question. In many cases you may answer by circling the correct letter or number. Other times you will need to fill in a blank or a space.
3. If you have any comment to make, if you do not understand an item, if your feelings differ from those given you to choose among, or if you feel some explanation is necessary, please write in the margins close to the item in question.

Thank you very much. We hope that you find this an interesting experience.

SECTION ONE: QUESTIONS ON SCHOOL LIFE AND DAILY ACTIVITIES

1. HOW OLD ARE YOU? 17
2. WHAT IS YOUR CLASS IN SCHOOL? (Please circle the number in front of the appropriate response on this and similar questions)

1 FRESHMAN	1 NO
2 SOPHOMORE	2 YES
3 JUNIOR	
4 SENIOR	
3. WHAT IS YOUR SEX? ☒ MALE ☐ FEMALE
4. COUNTING THIS YEAR, HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU ATTENDED MENCIE SCHOOL? 7 YEARS
5. DO YOU BELONG TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS OR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, EITHER IN THE SCHOOL OR IN THE COMMUNITY? (We ask to circle a response for every item "a" through "q".)

a. ATHLETIC TEAMS	1 NO 2 YES	j. HUNT CLUBS	1 NO 2 YES
b. BAND OR ORCHESTRA	1 NO 2 YES	k. YMCA, YWCA	1 NO 2 YES
c. CHORUS, VOCAL GROUPS	1 NO 2 YES	l. B-H, GIRL SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, ETC.	1 NO 2 YES
d. DRAMATICS	1 NO 2 YES	m. SERVICE CLUBS, CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS	1 NO 2 YES
e. DEBATE	1 NO 2 YES	n. CHURCH GROUPS OR CLUBS	1 NO 2 YES
f. SCHOOL PAPER	1 NO 2 YES	o. ANY OTHER GROUPS (Please specify type of group)	1 NO 2 YES
g. STUDENT GOVERNMENT	1 NO 2 YES		
h. ANNUAL (YEARBOOK)	1 NO 2 YES		
i. SCHOLARSHIP, FRATERNITY, ROTARY, ETC.	1 NO 2 YES		
6. ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF HOURS YOU HAVE SPENT IN THE PAST SEVEN DAYS ON CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SOCIETIES, INCLUDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 14 HOURS
7. IF YOU ARE MALE, STATE WHAT FRATERNITY OR SOCIAL CLUB, IF FEMALE, WHAT SCHOLARSHIP OR SOCIAL CLUB, YOU CONSIDER MOST DESIRABLE FOR A STUDENT OF YOUR SEX TO BELONG TO IN HIGH SCHOOL: Case Country Club
8. LIST BELOW IN ORDER OF IMPORTANT THE TWO QUALITIES THAT A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OF YOUR SEX SHOULD HAVE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS FRATERNITY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR CLUB:

MOST IMPORTANT	<u>Intelligence</u>
NEXT MOST IMPORTANT	<u>Leadership</u>
9. COMPARED TO MANY STUDENTS IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL, YOUR LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES ARE:

1 GREATER THAN AVERAGE
2 ABOUT AVERAGE
3 LESS THAN AVERAGE

1600

Middletown Studies Collection:

Middletown III

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2. ARE YOU PRESENTLY EMPLOYED?

1. Yes
2. No

2a. IF NO: When did you stop? _____ month _____ year

Please go ahead and answer the following questions describing your MOST RECENT job.

3. WHAT KIND OF WORK ARE YOU DOING?
ELECTRICIAN
(For example: engineer, assembly line worker, mechanic, secretary)

4. WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OR DUTIES?
Installation + Repair
(For example: designing bridges, fastening battery plates, tuning-up cars, typing)

5. WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY IS THIS?
Battery Manufacturer
(For example: Engineering firm, Automobile manufacturer, independent garage city office)

6. ARE YOU:

1. An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary, or commissions?
2. A GOVERNMENT employee?
2a. Federal 2c. County
2b. State 2d. Local
3. Self-employed in OWN business, professional practice, or farm?
3a. Own business not incorporated (or farm)
3b. Own business incorporated
4. Working WITHOUT PAY in a family business or farm?

7. HOW MUCH INCOME DID YOU EARN AT YOUR JOB LAST YEAR (BEFORE TAXES, THAT IS)?

1. Under \$3,000	11. \$12,000 to \$12,999
2. \$3,000 to \$3,999	12. \$13,000 to \$13,999
3. \$4,000 to \$4,999	13. \$14,000 to \$14,999
4. \$5,000 to \$5,999	14. \$15,000 to \$15,999
5. \$6,000 to \$6,999	15. \$16,000 to \$16,999
6. \$7,000 to \$7,999	16. \$17,000 to \$17,999
7. \$8,000 to \$8,999	17. \$18,000 to \$18,999
8. \$9,000 to \$9,999	18. \$19,000 to \$19,999
9. \$10,000 to \$10,999	19. \$20,000 to \$24,999
10. \$11,000 to \$11,999	20. \$25,000 to \$34,999
	21. Over \$35,000

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8. WHAT WAS THE FIRST FULL TIME JOB YOU HAD? Stock Clerk

8a. WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO?

8b. WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WAS THIS?
Variety Store

9. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, SOME JOBS TAKE A LOT MORE EFFORT THAN OTHERS. CONSIDERING YOUR OWN PARTICULAR JOB, IS IT ONE WHERE YOU:

1. Work to the limit of your energy most of the time
2. Work moderately hard most of the time
3. Alternate stretches of hard work and of taking it easy on the job
4. Take it easy on the job most of the time

10. WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR PRESENT JOB:

1. Makes full use of your energy and ability
2. Makes only partial use of your energy and ability
3. Makes hardly any use of your energy and ability

11. DURING AN AVERAGE WORK DAY, DO YOU FIND YOURSELF:

1. Working very hard most of the time
2. Working very hard at some times but taking it easy at other times
3. Taking it easy most of the time

12. HOW MANY TIMES DURING THE PAST FULL MONTH DID YOU MISS WORK, COME TO WORK LATE, OR LEAVE WORK EARLY BECAUSE OF PERSONAL REASONS?

1. Missed work 0
2. Came late 0
3. Left early 0

13. THINK OF THE LAST DAY YOU WORKED, HOW LONG WERE YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF WORK?
8 hours and 30 minutes

14. STILL THINKING OF THIS SAME DAY, HOW MUCH OF YOUR TIME DID YOU:

1. Work very hard 2 hours _____ minutes
2. Work moderately hard 5 hours _____ minutes
3. Take it easy 7 hours _____ minutes

15. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO TAKE IT EASY ON THE JOB, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR TIME?
Talk - Rest

16. WHAT OTHER THINGS DO PEOPLE IN YOUR PLACE OF WORK DO WHEN THEY HAVE FREE TIME ON THE JOB?
Read

Middletown Studies Collection:

Middletown Film Series

- Middletown Film Series
- The film series is aired on PBS in 1982. It included “vignettes” of contemporary Muncie life:
 - ▣ The Campaign – an account of the 1979 mayoral election
 - ▣ Family Business – showed a family struggling to operate a pizza franchise
 - ▣ The Big Game – Looked at high school basketball in Muncie through the eyes of one black and one white player
 - ▣ Community of Praise – showed a family searching for religious meaning in Pentecostal experience

Middletown Studies Collection:

Middletown Film Series

- ▣ Second Time Around – showed a couple about to be married, each partner for the second time.
- ▣ Seventeen – Followed students at South Side High School. It was criticized for showing students doing drugs and using sexually explicit language.

Middletown Studies Collection:

Other Books on Middletown

- Middletown Families, 1982
- All the Faithful People, 1983
- Middletown Jews edited by Dan Rottenberg, 1997
- Dick Green's Neighborhood by John Straw, 2000
- Other Side of Middletown, 2003

Middletown Digital Archives

- Digitized materials available through Ball State University Libraries' Digital Media Repository (<http://libx.bsu.edu>):
 - Oral histories
 - Photographs
 - Maps
 - Documents
 - Films — The Man Haters